

CATBIRD, BROWN THRASHER AND WREN



Brown Thrasher—Above, Bright Reddish Brown; Below, White; Breast and Flanks Spotted With Brown.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

According to a new bulletin issued by the department of agriculture, entitled "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer" (farmers' bulletin No. 650), the wren, brown thrasher and catbird are three very useful neighbors to the grower of crops or fruits.

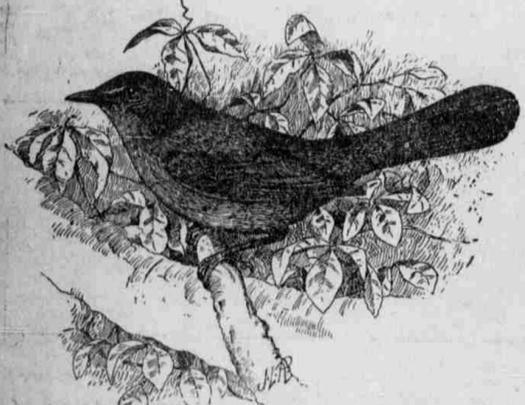
The diminutive house wren frequents barns and gardens, and particularly old orchards in which the trees are partially decayed. He makes his nest in a hollow where perhaps a woodpecker had a domicile the year before, but he is a pugnacious character, and if he happens to fancy one of the boxes put up for bluebirds he does not hesitate to take it. He is usually not slow to avail himself of boxes, gourds, tin cans, or empty jars placed for his accommodation.

In food habits the house wren is entirely beneficial. He may be said to live upon animal food alone, for an



House Wren—Above, Reddish Brown; Below, Solid White Wings and Tail Barred.

examination of 88 stomachs showed that 98 per cent of the contents was made up of insects or their allies, and only 2 per cent was vegetable food, including bits of grass and similar matter, evidently taken by accident with the insects. Half of this food consisted of grasshoppers and beetles; the remainder of caterpillars, bugs and spiders. As the wren is a prolific breeder, frequently rearing in a season from 12 to 16 young, a family of these birds must cause considerable reduction in the number of insects in a



Catbird—Slate Color, Pale Below; Under Rump Chestnut.

garden. Wrens are industrious foragers, searching every tree, shrub and vine for caterpillars, and examining every post and rail of the fence and every cranny in the wall for insects or spiders.

The house wren is only one of a numerous group of small birds of similar habits. There are within the limits of the United States 34 species and subspecies of wrens, occupying more or less completely the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With the exception of the marsh wren, they all appear to prefer some cozy nook for a nesting site, and, as it happens, the farm buildings afford just the place desired. This has led several of the wrens to seek out the habitation of man, and he is benefited by their destruction of noxious insects. No species of wren has been accused of harm, and their presence should be encouraged about every farm, ranch, village or suburban residence.

The brown thrasher breeds throughout the United States east of the great plains, and winters in the South Atlantic and Gulf states. It occasionally visits the garden or orchard, but nests in swamps or in groves standing upon low ground. The thrasher's favorite time for singing is in early morning, when, perched on the top of a tall bush or low tree, it gives an exhibition of vocal powers which would do credit to a mockingbird. Indeed, in the South, where the latter bird is abundant, the thrasher is known as the sandy mocker.

The food of the brown thrasher consists of both fruit and insects. An examination of 636 stomachs showed 36 per cent of vegetable and 64 of animal food, practically all insects,

and mostly taken in spring before fruit was ripe. Half the insects were beetles and the remainder chiefly grasshoppers, caterpillars, bugs and spiders. A few predaceous beetles were eaten, but on the whole the work of the species as an insect destroyer may be considered beneficial.

Eight per cent of its food is made up of fruits like raspberries or currants which are or may be cultivated, but the raspberries at least are as likely to belong to wild as to cultivated varieties. Grain, made up mostly of scattered kernels of oats and corn, is merely a trifle, amounting to only 3 per cent. Though some of the corn may be taken from newly planted fields, it is amply paid for by the destruction of May beetles which are eaten at the same time. The rest of the food consists of wild fruit or seeds. Taken all in all, the brown thrasher is a useful bird, and probably does as good work in its secluded retreats as it would about the garden, for the swamps and groves are no doubt the breeding grounds of many insects that migrate thence to attack the crops of the farmer.

The catbird, like the thrasher, is a lover of swamps and delights to make its home in a tangle of wild grapevines, greenbriers, and shrubs, where it is safe from attack and can find its favorite food in abundance. It is found throughout the United States west to the Rocky mountains, and extends also from Washington, Idaho and Utah northward into the provinces of Canada. It winters in the southern states, Cuba, Mexico and Central America.

Reports from the Mississippi valley indicate that the catbird is sometimes a serious annoyance to fruit growers. The reason for such reports may possibly be found in the fact that on the prairies fruit-bearing shrubs, which afford so large a part of this bird's food, are conspicuously absent. With the settlement of this region comes an extensive planting of orchards, vineyards and small-fruit gardens, which furnish shelter and nesting sites for the catbird as well as for other species. There is in consequence a large increase in the numbers of the birds, but no corresponding gain in the supply of native fruits upon which they were accustomed to feed. Under these circumstances what is more natural than for the birds to turn to



House Wren—Above, Reddish Brown; Below, Solid White Wings and Tail Barred.

cultivated fruits for their food? The remedy is obvious: Cultivated fruits can be protected by the simple expedient of planting the wild species which are preferred by the birds. Some experiments with catbirds in captivity show that the Russian mulberry is preferred to any cultivated fruit.

AVOID ALL ANIMAL DISEASES

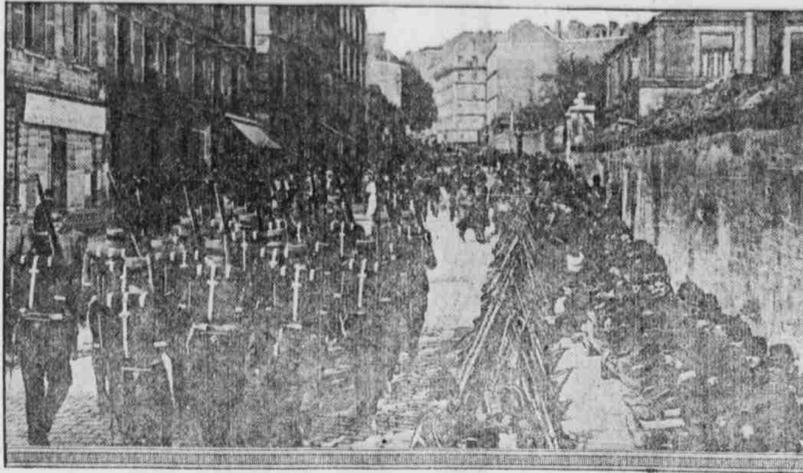
Do Not Allow Stray Dogs on the Place—Shoot Sparrows and All Other Carriers of Germs.

If you live in a country that has infectious animal infection, either foot and mouth disease or hog cholera: Don't allow stray dogs on the place and keep your own at home. Don't harbor a horde of rats. Don't hesitate to shoot pigeons, sparrows and similar possible carriers of germs. Don't permit hunters, peddlers or wandering "agents" to enter your premises. Don't go near an infected area. Don't encourage visits from friends or neighbors who have infection on their farms.

Feeding Dry Grain. It is less work to feed dry grain than mash, so many are experimenting with it. If one attempts this method, it is well to alternate buckwheat with corn, barley with millet, and feed oats and wheat daily.

Feed for Balancing Ration. Every locality in the country can produce a kind of feed capable of balancing up the corn ration.

ITALY'S TROOPS KEEP ON THE ALERT FOR TROUBLE



For months the entrance of Italy into the war has been expected. Her troops are all mobilized and large bodies of men have been sent to the Austrian frontier. A detachment is here seen marching through the streets of Genoa.

CIVIL WAR ENDED FIFTY YEARS AGO

Anniversary of Final Scene in Struggle Between North and South.

WHEN LEE AND GRANT MET

Historic Event at Appomattox Court House as Described by Gen. Horace Porter—Contrast Between the Two Great Soldiers.

Washington—Fifty years ago, in the quiet and peaceful little village of Appomattox Court House, Va., was enacted one of the most memorable scenes in the history of that civil strife waged for over four long years between the North and South, the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia under Gen. Robert E. Lee to Gen. U. S. Grant, commander in chief of the Union forces.

A half century of time has served to blot out the memory of the causes that led up to the conflict, but those still living who bore arms during the strife, and especially the veterans under the immediate commands of Generals Lee and Grant, can hardly be expected to forget the day upon which the leader of the Confederate forces in the field decided to submit to what he sincerely believed was the inevitable.

Follow Lee's Example. Although the surrender of Lee marked the official ending of the war, there were some of the Confederate commanders who refused to believe that their cause was a lost one and made strong efforts to continue the fighting. When the news of the surrender was brought to General Echols, in command of the department of



Gen. U. S. Grant.

Southwest Virginia, a council of his brigade commanders was held to decide whether or not they should give up. Several of the cavalry leaders strongly expressed the determination that they should put off surrender as long as the Confederacy had an armed force in the field, and declared that an effort should be made to join General Johnston. General Echols was among these, and for several days, with a large part of his cavalry, he marched to the south. With each succeeding day, however, they became more convinced of the fruitlessness of their efforts, and finally decided to follow the example of Lee.

April 9, 1865, was the date on which the surrender of Lee took place. Although terms had been virtually agreed upon between Grant and the Confederate commander as the result of the exchange of a series of notes, the formal drafting of the terms between the leaders of the opposing forces took place on this date in the home of Wilmer McLean, one of the most pretentious in the little village of Appomattox.

The meeting which resulted in the

ending of the war is interestingly described by Horace Porter, brevet brigadier general, as follows:

"It was then about half-past one of Sunday, the 9th of April. We entered, and found General Grant sitting at a marble-topped table in the center of the room, and Lee sitting beside a small oval table near the front window, in the corner opposite to the door by which we entered, and facing General Grant. Colonel Marshall, his military secretary, was standing at his left. We walked in softly and ranged ourselves quietly about the sides of the room, very much as the people enter a sick-chamber when they expect to find the patient dangerously ill. Some found seats on the sofa and the few chairs which constituted the furniture, but most of the party stood.

The contrast between the two commanders was striking, and could not fail to attract marked attention as they sat ten feet apart, facing each other. General Grant, then nearly forty-three years of age, was five feet eight inches in height, with shoulders slightly stooped. His hair and full beard were nut-brown, without a trace of gray in them. He had on a single-breasted blouse, made of dark-blue flannel, unbuttoned in front, and showing a waistcoat underneath. He wore an ordinary pair of top boots, with his trousers inside, and was without spurs. The boots and portions of his clothes were spattered with mud. He had had on a pair of thread gloves, of a dark yellow color, which he had taken off on entering the room. His felt "sugar loaf" stiff-brimmed hat was thrown on the table beside him. He had no sword, and a pair of shoulder straps was all there was about him to designate his rank. In fact, aside from these, his uniform was that of a private soldier.

Lee's Fine Presence. Lee, on the other hand, was fully six feet in height and quite erect for one of his age, for he was Grant's senior by sixteen years. His hair and full beard were a silvery-gray and quite thick, except that the hair had become a little thin in front. He wore a new uniform of Confederate gray, buttoned up at the throat, and at his side he carried a long sword of exceedingly fine workmanship, the hilt studded with jewels. It was said to be the sword that had been presented to him by the state of Virginia. His top boots were comparatively new, and seemed to have on them some ornamental stitching of red silk. Like his uniform, they were singularly clean and but little travel-stained. On the boots were handsome spurs with large rowels. A felt hat, which in color matched pretty closely that of his uniform, and a pair of long buckskin gauntlets lay beside him on the table. We asked Colonel Marshall afterward how it was that both he and his chief were such fine toggers and looked so much as if they had turned out to go to church, while with us our garb scarcely rose to the dignity even of the 'shabby-genteel.' He straightened us out regarding the contrast by explaining that when their headquarters wagons had been pressed so closely by our cavalry a few days before, and it was found they would have to destroy all their baggage, except the clothes they carried on their backs, each one, naturally, selected the newest suit he had, and sought to propitiate the god of destruction by a sacrifice of his second-best."

Grant Writes the Terms. After briefly discussing the conditions, General Lee suggested that the terms be put in writing. Grant called for his order book, opened it on the table and proceeded to do so. While writing, he noticed the handsome sword that Lee possessed, and he afterwards said that this set him to thinking that it would be an unnecessary humiliation to require the officers to surrender their swords and a great hardship to deprive them of their personal baggage and horses, which caused him to add this sentence: "This will not embrace the side arms of the officers nor their private horses nor baggage."

The terms as submitted by General Grant were: "Gen. R. E. Lee, Commanding C. S. A. "General: In accordance with the

substance of my letter to you of the 8th instant, I propose to receive the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on the following terms, to-wit: Rolls of all the officers and men to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer to be designated by me, the other to be retained by such officers as you may designate. The officers to give their individual paroles not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly 'exchanged,' and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for all the men of their commands. The arms, artillery and public property to be parked and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the sidearms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities so long as they observe their paroles and the laws in force where they may reside. Very respectfully,

"U. S. GRANT, "Lieutenant General."

News Quickly Spreads. They were evidently agreeable to the Confederate commander, and General Lee directed that a letter of acceptance of the terms of surrender be drawn up.

This was signed, and after a few impersonal remarks the leaders of the

two opposing forces shook hands and departed.

It did not take long for the news to spread among the soldiers, and big bonfires that evening evidenced the pleasure of the troops that hostilities were at an end.

FARMER'S WIFE EARNS AUTO

Helps Husband With Carpenter Work; He Sells His Wheat at \$1.50.

Culver, Kan.—Last summer before D. H. Knott threshed his wheat he decided to hold the crop for a higher price. He built granaries and repaired others on his farm, but the work of harvesting and threshing made labor scarce and he finally secured his wife's services in assisting in the carpenter work and she made a good hand. When the work was completed and the threshing machine was ready for his stacks, Mrs. Knott said: "Now, husband, what am I to get for my services?"

"Well, when wheat reaches a dollar and a half I will sell and we will have a motor car," was the answer. "The wheat is sold and Mr. Knott's bank account shows that he received a dollar and a half a bushel. Mrs. Knott is waiting for the auto."

Some Demonstration. Lawrenceburg, Ind.—Renon N. Probst, age sixty-two, a farmer living in Miller township, bought territory in Dearborn county as sole agent for a patent feed cutter, guaranteed to assure safety to the operator. Probst was demonstrating the feed cutter to a number of farmers and was making "safety first" a strong point, when his right hand was drawn into the machine. The ends of three of his fingers were amputated by the knives.

Say These Would Starve First. Amsterdam.—In reply to the British threat to starve out Germany, the Cologne Gazette says Germany has 600,000 prisoners and holds in France and Belgium territory 11,000,000 persons, and that all these would starve first.

Tangos at One Hundred and One. New Haven, Conn.—Asher Sheldon celebrated his one hundred and first birthday by tangos with Mrs. Sarah Cook, ninety-three, at a reception given by his friends.

Pays for Stolen Rides. Newark, N. J.—"Conscience Stricken" has sent 25 cents to the Public Service Railway company for five rides taken on street cars and not paid for.

reads his German papers, smokes his pipe, takes a walk every morning, has friends, cooks his own meals and expects to live to be one hundred years old.

Some years ago the squatters were ordered from this tract, but this old man declined to move without first making an effort to stay. He had grown used to the little habitat which he fashioned with his own hands. Dr. G. L. Miller became interested in the man and arranged to allow him to stay as long as he lived. He pays no taxes and is sure of his home until the final summons shall come.

Mr. Hardenbecker makes picture frames for a living. He has built up a nice little business, enough to supply his few wants. He never worries and he takes a keen interest in affairs, considering his years.

He believes in the old saying, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." He says he is healthy and wise and even wealthy, because he has all he really needs. He retires at 9:30 o'clock and gets up at midnight for a soothing pipe of tobacco. After his midnight communion with Lady Nicotine he goes back to sleep and is up again at six o'clock. He seldom misses a morning walk. He does all of his own housework except the laundry, which he sends out. He has no kin in this country. His wife died a few years ago. He has a daughter in Germany and the other afternoon he said that this daughter has four sons in the European war. This same daughter has seven girls.

New York Has Youngest Police Force in World

NEW YORK.—There is a unique organization in the lower East side called the Junior Police. They are more than three hundred strong, and behind the organization is every uniformed man of the precinct, with the city government in all its power and majesty looming up in the background. Some authority, as will doubtless be conceded. It is the youngest police force in the world, individually speaking, this band of enthusiastic youngsters. And it's getting results. For instance, the regular police say that since the inauguration of the venture street bonfires have been reduced in the district 98 per cent, complaints of disorderly street gatherings have been cut to less than half, street cleaning has been lightened, garbage cans kept in order, juvenile cigarette smoking made unpopular and a juvenile millennium all but inaugurated. The boy "police-men" go on patrol duty on the beats assigned to them immediately after leaving school, and pound the pavements for "sessions" varying from one to two hours a day.

They keep a sharp lookout for obstructed fire escapes on the different buildings, inspect the garbage cans, make notes of the condition of the sidewalk, keep up on their toes, and, in fact, do pretty much the same things that a regular policeman is expected to do in the performance of his duty. Any infringement of the rules of the force, which are largely paraphrased from the most commonly violated ordinances of the city, are called to the attention of those responsible for them, and if remedial steps are not forthcoming the matter is reported to the regular police and a "regular" sent out to force compliance. The merchants and most of the other residents of the precinct have learned that a boy policeman is not to be trifled with on matters conflicting with the laws of the city, and a simple request is usually enough to bring about the desired change. As a result the precinct is cleaner now than it has been for years, lawlessness is on the wane, and the work of the regular police reduced to a minimum.

High Benches Develop "Swingitis," New Malady

DETROIT, MICH.—An innovation of a labor-saving device in the circuit court rooms has developed a new disease, "swingitis," and court attaches fear an epidemic of nervous prostration. It all came about when the janitors complained about the difficulty in cleaning under the court benches. The auditors authorized the carpenters to place castors under the benches, so that they could be moved at will.

Then short-legged jurors and witnesses began to notice that they were "up in the air." When they sat squarely on the benches their feet quivered aimlessly back and forth in a vain attempt to reach terra firma. The sight of many bodies swaying in unconscious rhythm and the scraping of soles on the marble floor soon proved distracting to his honor, the jury, and the occupant of the witness stand. The genial face of Judge Mandell acquired lines of care. The juryidgeted. Clerk Jack Seeley frowned over his spectacles.

Here is a puffy fat man who "sits tight" as long as he can stand it, then he grunts and stands up against the wall in disgust. There you see a woman who swings a while, then looks around to see whom she may blame for her unrest of mind and feet.

From a quiet, peaceable court Judge Mandell's room has developed into a haunt for nervous, fidgety, and worried individuals. When jurors are called into this court during the empanelling of a jury there is an obvious tendency for the short men to hang back at the door or to make a rush for the few chairs in the room. It is the long-legged man's paradise, however.

Those who have experienced the first symptoms of "swingitis" in Judge Mandell's court are considering a strenuous protest to the auditors.

Makes a Long Prayer, Then Fights the Police

HAVERHILL, MASS.—Police officers armed with a warrant for his arrest stood over William Patrawicz at his home on Crown place the other day, waiting for him to finish his prayers. He prayed so long and fervently that the officers decided to find out what he was praying about and an interpreter told them that he was asking forgiveness for stabbing Mary Zakaraska at a birthday celebration the night before.

The interpreter listened to the long prayer and told the officers that Patrawicz was saying that he had not meant to stab the woman, but he had been clumsy and wanted to be forgiven for his clumsiness.

When Patrawicz was finally arrested he protested that he couldn't leave home because he had other prayers to offer, but he was told to make ready for a trip to the police station. Then he changed from the praying supplicant to the enraged fighter and gave battle to Inspector Hussey and Reserve Officer Murphy all the way to police headquarters.

The celebration, at which it is alleged the Zakaraska woman was slashed with Patrawicz' knife, was one in which the entire Crown place colony participated and was followed by a general affray.

True Nobility is Selfless. The essence of true nobility is negation of self. Let the thought of self pass in, and the beauty of a great person is gone—like the bloom from a faded flower.—Froude.

Worth of Thought. It is not always the depth or novelty of a thought which constitutes its value to ourselves, but the fitness of its application to our circumstances.—Sewell.



Lives as a Hermit in Fashionable Neighborhood

OMAHA, NEB.—Just across the alley north of Dodge street and east of Thirty-fifth street is a humble little cottage in which Theodore Hardenbecker lives alone. For one score years this venerable German has maintained a residence at this location and he is the last of a colony of squatters who settled on a tract of land which was owned by Dr. G. L. Miller. Surrounded on every hand by comfortable and commodious homes, he enjoys life in the three small rooms which he calls home, sweet home.



He is a striking example of the verity of the statement that happiness may be found in the most humble of places. Mr. Hardenbecker is eighty-five years of age and happy.

He reads his German papers, smokes his pipe, takes a walk every morning, has friends, cooks his own meals and expects to live to be one hundred years old.

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